**OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASKFORCE MEETING MINUTES**

**July 10, 2020**

**10:00am – 1:00pm**

**Participate via Web or Phone:**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/5123980429>

Or call in: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 512 398 0429

**\*\*\*\*\* There is no in person meeting for July\*\*\*\*\***

The July meeting was held virtually via Zoom due to COVID 19. In person meetings will resume when it is safe to do so.

**Taskforce Members Present:** Dawn Francis, Tracy Keninger, Mari Reynolds, Joel Vander Molen, Jessica Johanns, Michael Martin, Lisa Pakkebier, Mari Reynolds, Renee Speh, Jenna Batten, Paula Connolly, June Klein Bacon, Kim Brown, Brittney Montross

**Guests:**  John McCalley, Kim Barber, Pam Heagle, Lindsey Robertson, Connie Fanselow, Lisa Schneider, Brooke Lovelace, Terri Rosonke, Di Findley, Emily Berry, Jim Pender, Sandi Hurtado-Peters, Fred Wilcox

1. 10:00      **Welcome and Introductions**
2. 10:10      **Review, Additional Items, and Approval of the Agenda**

Paula motioned to approve the agenda. June seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion carried.

1. 10:15      **Review, Corrections and Approval of the May minutes**

Joel motioned to approve the minutes, with the addition of Michael Martin as attending. Jessica seconded. Motion approved. No nays or abstentions. Motion carried.

1. 10:20**DHS / IME Updates – Connie Fanselow**

* The [Building the Community 2020 Strategic Plan](https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/DHS_BuildingTheCommunity_2020.pdf?081720202149) was compiled by DHS with the help of stakeholders and is intended to augment the Olmstead Plan, focusing on those individuals who are served at the State Resource Centers (SRCs) or those who may be seeking admission to the SRCs. It specifically addresses the needs of SRC residents who have an interest in moving into the community and preventing SRC admission if there are community resources available. Benchmarks are identified at 6 months, 12 months, 2 years, and 5 years. DHS will deploy a Community Integration Communications Strategic Plan to educate guardians, providers, legislators and stakeholders on community integration efforts in June 2020. It includes items such as setting up a community integration website, promoting success stories, outreach to legislative meetings, and having monthly town halls with SRC residents and family members, developing a resource guide, and developing a taskforce and dashboard to monitor metrics. Sections of the Building the Community 2020 Strategic Plan include:
* **Admission and Services** includes developing admission criteria and an admissions policy to assure appropriate placement and defining the services that are available at the state resource centers.
* **Assessment and planning** assures individuals at the SRCs will have updated individual assessments that include a transition to community living component. Assessments will be completed by MCOs and will be complete by January 2021.
* **Identifying Gaps in Community Services** refers to a DHS effort to collaborate with the Iowa Association of Community Providers, MHDS regions, parent groups, is holding listening sessions to identify gaps in community services. The findings will be summarized in a public in a report.
* **Active Transitions** includes coordinating and planning for SRC residents to move into the community and determining needed supports and preferences. This may include developing step-down programs to allow individuals to gradually transition to community living and shifting expertise at the SRCs to the community.
* **Educating Individuals and Guardians** involves the sharing of success stories of individuals who have moved with SRC residents and guardians, which include a description options to live in the community and supports that are available. This also includes facilitating opportunities to visit community providers and offer overnight visits, extending the amount of time that SRCs monitor community transitions to one year after the person has left and reinstating a six month return agreement if the individual wants to return.
* **Assessing the Stability, Safety, and Quality of Community Supports** will track several data points to identify where the community supports are insufficient. Data points include items such as long hospitalizations, involuntary discharges from providers, and critical incidents. The information will be summarized in the Annual Barriers Report completed by SRCs.
* **Building the Community** includes several initiatives to develop more robust community supports. This includes projects such as expanding supported employment initiatives, developing regular and customized employment opportunities in the general workforce, developing meaningful day activities, and expanding the I-Tabs program to provide behavioral consultation.
* Mary Mohrhauser, who managed the community mental health contract, the Mental Health Planning Council and the implementation of the mental health block grant has retired. Julie Maas was hired as her replacement, which leaves Julie’s current position of supporting the MHDS Commission and other projects open. The University of Iowa will hire for this position. Marissa Eyanson is now fulltime in her role as Division Administrator of Community Services. Cory Turner has been named the permanent Division Administrator of Facilities. Director Garcia has been named the Interim Director of Iowa Department of Public Health.
* DHS has been awarded several grants to support special populations during COVID-19. One was a 45-day grant, which allowed for the opportunity to apply for a longer-term grant at the conclusion of it. The grants will provide virtual and confidential mental health outreach services, supportive crisis counseling, psychoeducation, linkages to resources, development of coping skills, assessment and referral to substance treatment programs, and outreach counselors hired to make sure special populations are not overlooked.
* The Emergency COVID-19 project is a collaboration between IDPH and DHS to begin in August. It will offer outpatient treatment and services for people with Substance Use Disorder or mental illness via telehealth, plus services for health care professionals. The grant will provide treatment for up to 500 individuals, emergency crisis training, warm-line service, and substance use treatment services across the state.
* DHS has funding to allow 7 organizations to transform themselves into Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC). New clinics include Eyerly Ball, Hillcrest, Berryhill, Plains Area, Robert Young, and Elevate Housing Foundation. Each clinic will receive $2M in funding for up to two years to augment existing services and make sure they can offer the full spectrum of services.
* The Developmental Disabilities Council’s InfoNet has published a summary of the legislation that was passed and what may be brought up next session that contains a lot of useful information for advocates.
* HF 2643 is an omnibus bill that includes the health and human services budget. It allows money to be carried forward to next year that could not be spent. It also provides support for the SRCs and the Boys State Training School, and would allow the Assertive Community Treatment rates remain the same. It also adds language that compels counties to go to mediation for disagreements they cannot resolve and allows DHS to do onsite reviews and request financial documents to allow more leverage in quality control. Regions must submit annual financial audits and their 28E agreements. If a county decides to leave a region, funding will be allocated by a percentage of funding based on the share of the population in the county. The bill also includes a provision that allows counties that wish to split off the county social services region they are currently in, if those counties that split off meet certain requirements. The bill includes a provision that allows Polk County to transfer funding from other county funds to support MHDS work, if they submit a report that details how funding is spent and collaborate with DHS to maximize the use of Medicaid funding. Five million dollars was appropriated to DHS and will be passed through as a memorandum of agreement.
* SF2261 establishes behavioral health services in school via telehealth.
* SF2360 establishes therapeutic classrooms and provides a mechanism for reporting violent behavior in schools.
* As of July 1, Dickinson and O’Brien County joined Sioux Rivers region. Kossuth, Winnebago, and Worth joined Northwest Iowa Care Connection. Emmet and Muscatine Counties will remain in their current region for this year.
* Governor Reynolds announced that $50 million from the CARES Act will be invested in the mental health system, including $10 million dollars to non-hospital mental health providers, $10 million to substance use providers, and $30 million to MHDS regions. Funding will be distributed on a per capita basis to MHDS regions for adults and children. There will be an additional $98-99 million in property tax levy dollars going to regional services. Overall the MHDS regional system will be funded at about $130 million this year.

Discussion:

* John McCalley shared that Amerigroup is implementing assessments, collecting data, collaborating with other partners to identify gaps in existing services and supports.
* Brooke Lovelace noted IA Compass is contracted to provide support for people with disabilities though CARES Act. They will likely send out marketing materials out next week and will provide social check-in calls for individuals in the DD Council Database. She also mentioned that the DD Council initially opposed and is still on the fence due to possible use of corporal punishment. The bill will give the Board of Education responsibility to develop guidelines for when therapeutic classrooms should be used. She suggests monitoring the guidelines to make sure students with disabilities are not segregated or secluded. Other members noted concerns about possible violations of students’ special education rights and how teachers’ implicit bias and discretion at the use of therapeutic classrooms may reinforce the school-to-prison pipeline for children of color. Paula noted a need to monitor the needs of children who may not learn the best via distance learning.

1. 11:00       **Money Follows the Person – Lindsey Robertson**

* Lindsey presented an overview of Iowa’s Money Follow the Person Program

Discussion:

* June asked if there is data on the success rate of maintaining the placement after the transition year and on barriers that people encounter. Lindsey responded that MFP is working with the MCOs to monitor the success of placement after the MFP transition year. If they get information on placement and barriers, she will share data with the taskforce.
* Paula asked if data is available on people who didn’t want to have roommate or wanted to live in rural area, but could not due to lack of availability of staff and if there is a resource that identifies best practices. Lindsey suggested the resource [Evidence for Impact of the Money Follows the Person Program](https://clpc.ucsf.edu/publications/evidence-impact-money-follows-person-program), which listed Iowa’s MFP program as #3 in the U.S. for transitions. Dawn asked if it would be helpful to survey MFP members on issues.
* ACTION ITEM: Paula will identify data questions for DHS. Anne will send questions to both Olmstead Plan and Medicaid Committee, then send to the taskforce.
* Tracy asked about the reasons why Iowa is #3 in the country for transitions and information on the return on investment for the MFP program. Lindsey responded that MFP has both a well-functioning team and population that has previously been directed to facility-based care, which may have created a high demand for transition to community-based living. MFP completed 21 transitions through June and obtained CMS funding for an additional 60 transitions. They are planning on a total of 90 transitions total this year. The document [Research and Evaluation of the Money Follows the Person Demonstration Grants](https://www.mathematica.org/our-publications-and-findings/projects/research-and-evaluation-of-the-money-follows-the-person-mfp-demonstration-grants) has information on the return on investment of the MFP program.
* Dawn noted a study that found the average age of nursing home residents is age 42 and that MFP only assists people on the Intellectual Disabilities and Brain Injury waivers to community living. Centers for Independent Living have limited funding to help transition out of nursing homes and noted that the direct care workforce must be enhanced to support people living in the community. Dawn suggested partnering with the Iowa CareGivers Association to support people in communities. Lindsey noted that the Iowa UCEDD is collaborating with two Centers for Independent Living to provide training on best practices for training and providing transition supports for people who do not qualify for the MFP program. John McCalley with Amerigroup recommends requesting data from ITC and Amerigroup on people that would like to live in the community, but cannot.
* Paula asked if people entering a nursing home are still asked a set of questions. Lindsey responded that Pre-admission Screening Resident Review (PASRR) is completed. If the individual has a brain injury or intellectual disability and does not have an MCO, the MFP transition specialist provide options counseling. The Minimum Data Set Question Q is administered by a social worker or a MDSQ coordinator that identifies people in the facility that want to transition. MCOs assess all residents in facilities annually if they want to transition to the community.
* Michael asked how often MCO case managers are required to visit with members. John noted that it is some nursing homes make it challenging to provide case management for members. Dawn commented that people must reside in a facility for 90 days in order to access funds to assist them in living in the community.

1. 11:40**10-minute break**
2. 11:50 **Continued discussion of COVID-19 concerns**

* Anne provided update on letter that is being drafted to Governor Reynolds on the impact of COVID-19 on people with disabilities.
* Michael asked for discussion on what is the protocol if someone has positive test result or symptoms. Dawn and Paula noted that these protocols are organization specific. Joel orders sterile gloves every month, but recently did not receive gloves due to them being prioritized for hospitals and his nursing agency also cannot get them.
* ACTION ITEM: Anne will add Joel to the COVID-19 committee.
* As Executive Director of REM Iowa, Lisa Pakkebier noted that agencies are able to access personal protective equipment better than they were previously. The pandemic highlights the importance of the direct care workforce crisis.

1. 12:00       **Taskforce Committee Reports**
   1. Executive Committee Report – no report
   2. Olmstead Plan Committee Report – no report
   3. Community Access Committee Report – no report
   4. Medicaid Committee Report – The Medicaid Committee met to draft questions that they wanted Lindsey Robertson to address in her presentation. The committee is also planning to meet to discuss advocacy efforts for a universal waiver.
   5. COVID 19 Committee – no report

1. 12:15       **State Agency Reports**

Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) – Terri Rosonke

* Terri Rosonke shared that IFA is administering the Eviction Prevention Program. The program will offer rental and mortgage assistance to those who have had a documented loss of income due to COVID-19 and have not received CARES Act unemployment benefits. Anne will send the program link out.

Iowa Department of the Blind – Kim Barber

* Iowa Department for the Blind will receive level funding of $2,247,499.00 for State Fiscal Year 2021. This allocation will allow us to launch the Department’s 4+ program.
* IDB continues to take referrals via phone and website by the Intake Specialist.
* The Iowa Department for the Blind Independent Living program received a $1,000 grant from the Iowa DD Council for a project to help serve blind Iowans who also live with a developmental disability. IDB will engage clients by providing support and training by way of a support group model. IDB facilitates support groups in Sioux City, Des Moines, Council Bluffs, and Marshalltown through telecommunication venues. The goal is to reduce isolation and fears, increase available information, provide referrals, offer guidance and counseling, and allow for disability skills training. They anticipate increased peer connections, building of community, and support to live independently. IDB thanks the Iowa DD Council for this generous grant.
* The IDB Library started a [Summer Reading Program](https://iowalibrary.blog/programs/youth-services/summer-reading-program/2020-summer-reading-program/) that includes a series of virtual events with hands-on learning, singing, crafts, and more.

Iowa Department of Human Rights – Lisa Schneider

* The Youth Leadership Academy will occur August 3-7th.
* The Office of Deaf Services formed a workgroup to identify gaps and barriers in outreach and service delivery.
* COVID-19 resources are available on Iowa Department of Human Rights website and social media in multiple languages.
* Filed a report with the general assembly for community action agencies per 216A.92
* Kristin Correy who was the Department of Human Rights Head of the Office of the Status of Women has accepted a new position with the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Iowa Department of Public Health – Jim Pender

* IDPH has developed guidance for Covid-19 topics that may be of interest: <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/>
* IDPH is participating in a national collaborative with the National Center on Advancing Person Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS).
* The Office of Disability, Injury and Violence Prevention is being combined with the Office of Medical Cannabidiol to form the Bureau of Disability, Injury and Compassionate Therapeutics. The Bureau will be housed in the Division of Behavioral Health. Applications for the Bureau Chief position have been submitted and interviews will be conducted once COVID-19 restrictions allow. More information will be provided on the timeline, structure, and roles of the, staff within the Bureau.
* The DIVP received a 1-year mini-grant to host a Disability, Violence & Health Summit in summer 2020, but it has been canceled due to COVID-19.
* IDPH staff are working with a task force of the Advisory Council on Bain Injuries to develop a screening tool for use with individuals age 5-21 to screen for a lifetime history of traumatic brain injury and other acquired brain injuries. Iowa’s current brain injury screening tool is for use in individuals age 13 and older. It will be adapted from the brain check tool from Colorado State University. The Council will vote to approve this at their July meeting.

Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council – Brooke Lovelace

* The [Make Your Mark](https://idaction.org/make-your-mark-conference/) conference will be virtually this year, with one hour sessions on five days in September- October 2. Kayla McKeon is a keynote speaker, who is the first federal lobbyist to have Down syndrome.
* The week of July 12-18 is National Disability Voter Registration Week. The Iowa DD Council is partnering with the Secretary of State’s office to send information via social media. The DD Council also has voter education grants available to advocacy groups that are led by people with disabilities.

1. 12:30      **Taskforce Member Reports**

* Paula noted that Iowans can now request absentee ballots for the general election in November.
* June Klein Bacon mentioned that the Brain Injury Alliance is hosting a virtual conference in July. One topic will be concerns of how families with children at home may address concussion as it arises and the concussion tools available to students. Sessions will be specific for medical providers, educators, athletic staff, and families.
* Mari noted that return to learn plans must be submitted by July 1, with requirements for in-person, hybrid, and all online learning. There will be no guarantee of physical distancing or requirement to wear a mask. If the child has an IEP, the IEP team should still provide a free and appropriate public education. It is unknown how flexible schools will be for children with a 504 plan, but not an IEP.

1. 12:40                **Public Comment**

* John McCalley with Amerigroup is collaborating with partner organizations to assure members have access to ancillary services (i.e. housing and food assistance) that will help avoid homelessness due to COVID-19. Amerigroup is tracking COVID-19 outbreaks of more than 3 positives in nursing facilities.
* Anne explained that the several taskforce members terming off as of September 30 and will open the application process within the next few weeks.
* Mr. Fred Wilcox requested the recordings of previous OCTF meetings and whether the taskforce follows the Open Records Law. Dawn and Anne responded that the OCTF support person uses a digital recorder for the purpose of keeping accurate minutes but have not previously released the recordings and do not believe the taskforce is required to do so. The taskforce provides detailed minutes that reflect the content of the meeting and are available upon request after they are approved by the taskforce and via the website. Mr. Wilcox will forward the information that he has regarding requirements to release recordings to the taskforce. [Note: Mr. Wilcox was subsequently provided with copies of the recordings he requested.]

1. 1:00                  **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

***Next Meeting: Friday, September 11, 2020***